

REMARKS

The pending claims are 1-3, 5-10, 12, 13 and 16-23.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication, in paragraph 15, that claims 7, 12 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. Allowable claim 15 was dependent on claim 4. Claim 4, in turn, was dependent on claim 1. With this amendment, the subject matter of both claims 4 and 15 have been introduced into claim 1. Since claim 15 contained allowable subject matter and since claim 1 now contains the subject matter of claim 15 and the intervening claim (claim 4), claim 1 is allowable. All other pending claims are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and are also all allowable.

Issues Under 35 USC § 112

The rejection of claims 11, 14 and 22 in paragraphs 2-5 of the last Office Action is traversed but has been overcome by the present amendments.

The rejection of claims 11 and 14 is moot because these two claims have been cancelled.

In paragraph 3b of the last Office Action, the Examiner objects to the phrase "not an aromatic monomer". This phrase has been deleted, thus overcoming this ground of rejection. This same amendment also overcomes the rejection in paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

Issues Under 35 USC § 102

The rejection in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the last Office Action of selected claims under 35 USC § 102 is traversed but has been rendered moot. The limitations of allowable claim 15 have been introduced into claim 1. All claims, other than claim 1, are dependent on claim 1. It is thus undisputed that all claims are directed to subject matter that the Examiner agrees is novel.

Issues Under 35 USC § 103

The rejection in paragraphs 8-12 of selected claims as obvious under 35 USC § 103 over various combinations of references is traversed but has been rendered moot by the present amendment. By the present amendment, limitations of allowable claim 15 have been introduced into claim 1. Since all other claims are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, all claims define a subject matter that is undisputedly non-obvious in view of all cited art.

Summary

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been overcome by the present amendments and that the Examiner would be justified in passing the case to issue. Such action is earnestly solicited.

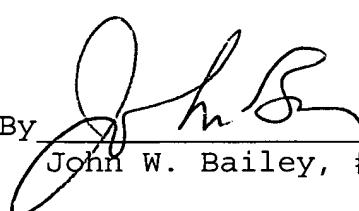
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David R. Murphy (Reg. No. 22,751) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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1422-0454P